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CLASSIFICATION: [REDACTED]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT The Eotvos Lorand University

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1. The Eotvos Lorand University was formerly the Kazmany Peter University; it was renamed in honor of Lorand Eotvos, a Hungarian Leftist hero. The university, a government institution, was supported by the Ministry of Public Health. The total enrollment of the Eotvos Lorand University was five thousand, of that number some two thousand students were specializing in natural sciences, 400 in chemistry, of which number 100 were beginners. There was about an even number of men and women.

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The following were divisions of the university:

- (a) The Central Physics Research Institute is a part of the Eotvos Lorand University although it is under the Ministry of Education and the Academy of Sciences. It was set up in 1949 for the purpose of coordinating instruction and research in theoretical and experimental physics, and several physics institutes were consolidated to form the new institute. The equipment was old and the instruction was poor, but it was improving. The institute was located in a three story building at the northeastern corner of the university compound at No 7, Pushkin utca. The administrative offices, class rooms, and several small laboratories and individual research rooms were located in this building; both instruction and individual research were carried on there. The Central Physics Research Institute had a staff of some

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100 persons made up of professors, teaching and laboratory assistants, and those doing individual research. It had 40-50 "diplom" students a year; there were four or five aspirants [REDACTED]. Dr Karoly Novobatzky became the Director of the institute in 1951. The Central Physics Research Institute was made up of the following:

- (1) Theoretical Physics Institute  
Director: Dr Novobatzky
- (2) Experimental Physics Institute  
Director: Dr Jenoe Pocza
- (3) Applied Physics Institute  
Director: Dr Peter Farago
- (4) Atomic Physics Research Institute [REDACTED]  
Director: Dr Istvan Kovacs
- (5) Research groups were headed by the following:  
Dr Janossy - cosmic rays  
Dr Tamas Tarnoczy - ultrasonics  
Dr Pal Selenyi - photocells  
Dr Tibor Szelenyi - photographic emulsion preparation  
Dr Sandor - radioactivity
- (b) The General Chemistry Institute was located at No 11-13 Pushkin utca, within the university compound, in a three story building adjoining the building in which the Central Physics Research Institute was located. The Institute was directed by Dr Bela Lengyel and had a staff of 16-20.
- (c) The Colloid Chemistry Institute was located in the same building as the General Chemistry Institute; the director was Dr Aladar Buzagh, Professor of Colloid Chemistry.
- (d) The Chemical Technological Institute was separated from the Colloid Chemistry Institute in the summer of 1951. The Chemical Technological Institute was concerned primarily with industrial research and had a staff of four. Located in the same building as the Colloid Chemistry Institute, it was directed by Dr Vilmos Schermann.
- (e) The Organic Chemistry Institute was located in the university compound No 4 Muzeum Koert, not far from the General Chemistry Building. The director of the institute was Dr Gyozse Bruckner, Professor of Organic Chemistry. Some research on synthetic dye production was done at this institute.
- (f) The Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry Institute, located in the same building as the Organic Chemistry Institute, was directed by Dr Elemer Schulek, Professor of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry.
- (g) The Physical Chemistry Institute, located in the same building as the Colloid Chemistry Institute, was directed by Dr Tibor Erdy-Gruz. It had a staff of some 30 persons.
- (h) The Biochemical Institute was directed by Dr Bruno Straub, Professor of Biochemistry. It was located within the University Compound on Pushkin utca and carried out biological research. This institute was modernized and re-equipped after 1950.

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- (i) The Electronmicroscopy Institute, set up in 1950, was directed by Dr Minaly Gerendas, Professor of Chemistry. The Institute had two electron microscopes; the last one was set up in the summer of 1951. This Institute was under the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
- (j) The administration office of the Medical School of the Eotvos Lorand University was located at Ualloe ut 26, a block of buildings about one km from the university campus. The various institutes of the Medical School were in several buildings within a short distance from the university. The School of Medicine included the following divisions:
- (1) Histology
  - (2) Biochemistry
  - (3) Surgery
  - (4) Internal Medicine
  - (5) Anatomy
  - (6) Bacteriology
  - (7) Physiology
  - (8) Gynecology
  - (9) Pharmacy
- (k) There was a Biological Institute of the Eotvos Lorand University on Pushkin utca. [REDACTED]
- (1) The Geology and Mineralogy Institute of the Eotvos Lorand University was directed by Dr Elemer Vadasz.
2. In 1945 there was a brass plate on the building which housed the Physical Chemistry Institute, General Chemistry Institute, and Colloid Chemistry Institute; it stated that the building and all the institutes in it belonged to the Rockefeller Institute. This was done in order to protect the instruments and equipment from pillaging or damage by the Soviet soldiers. [REDACTED]
3. The number of positions in the University was, for all practical purposes, fixed; promotions were made only when there was a vacancy. Suggestions for promotion were made to the director by the staffs of the various institutes; the director made his recommendation to the Ministry which had the responsibility for making the appointment. A small but active group of CP members on every staff made certain that only the names of "reliable" persons were suggested for promotion. The Director and the Ministry also made a careful check.
4. [REDACTED] the interrelationships of the university staff were cordial, barring, or course, temporary incidents. The professors of each faculty elected a dean from among themselves each year. The free time of the faculty was requisitioned by the Communist Party for propaganda work, such as writing pamphlets, and tabulating records.

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5. Hungarian students were interested in experimental rather than theoretical work and in general became skillful independent workers. There were no graduate student societies with the exception of the National Hungarian Chemical Society. Most graduate students of chemistry joined this organization during the latter part of their residence. Dues, which included subscriptions to two journals, were eight forints per month.
6. The students lived under very crowded conditions; as many as three had to live in one room. Students said that the food was very poor and that very little meat was served. The manager of one dining room was severely reprimanded after an outbreak of ptomaine poisoning. Worthy students who needed financial assistance were given their room and board free. Students had little free time. Government regulations prohibited any extracurricular work for pay, but required active participation in sports. The usual activity of the students for relaxation was walking in the mountains. Western dancing was discouraged. Movies were well attended despite the fact that most of them were propaganda, and most university students disliked propaganda that was too obvious. Russian and Czech films were shown both in the original and Hungarian language. Some of the films showed beautiful regions in the USSR, but they were dated by the clothes and "hair-does". There were some French, Italian, and Rumanian films in beautiful colors. Movies made in the US or England were shown only on rare occasions and then only when they fitted in with the Communist line. [REDACTED] Russian newsreels including war scenes had been introduced. Movies were a relatively inexpensive form of entertainment for the students since they had to pay only about one third of the regular price which was three to six forints.

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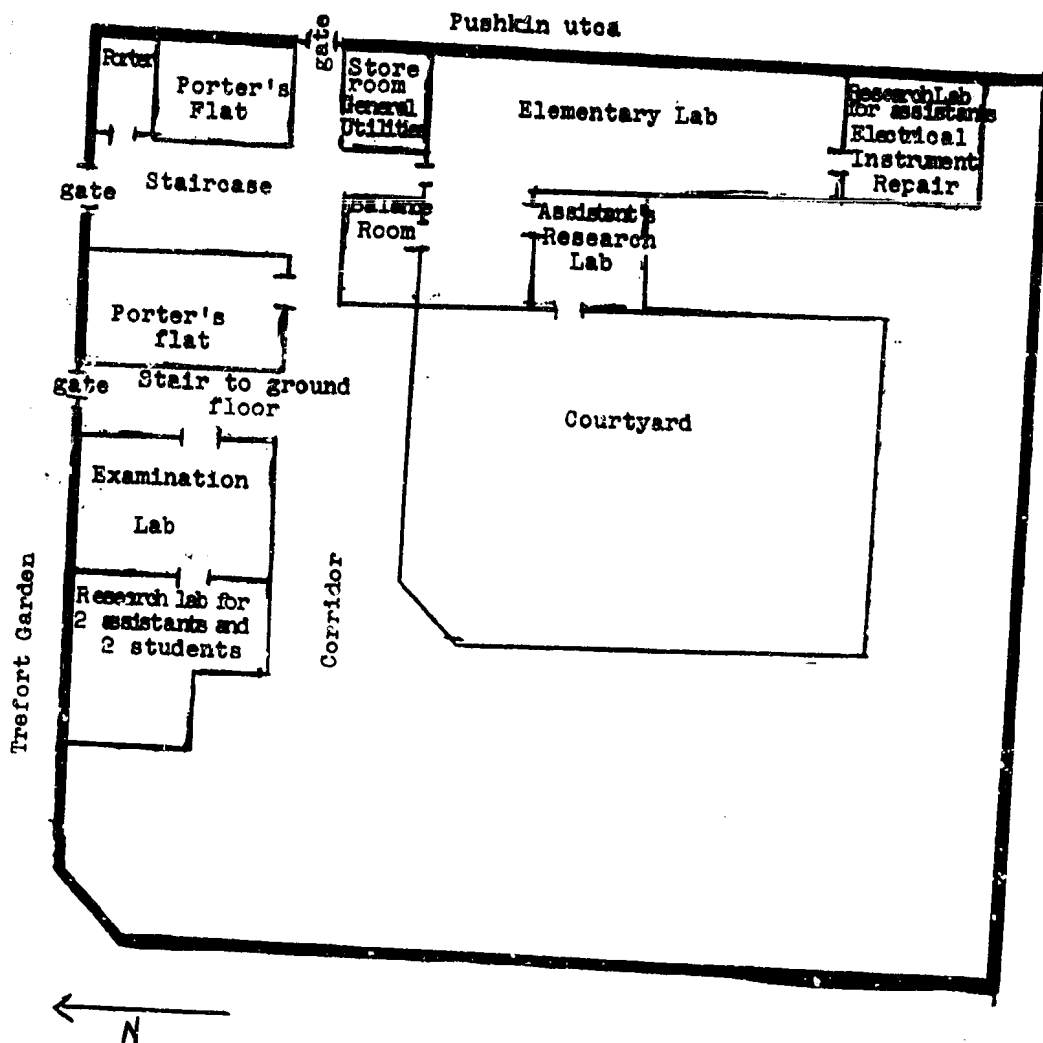
- Enclosure (A): Basement Institute for Colloid Chemistry  
Eotvos Lorand University
- (B): Ground Floor, Institute for Colloid Chemistry  
Eotvos Lorand University
- (C): General Physical Laboratory, Physical Chemistry  
Institute, Eotvos Lorand University
- (D): Electrotechnical Laboratory, Physical Chemistry  
Institute, Eotvos Lorand University

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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Basement, Institute for Colloid Chemistry,  
Koetvoos Lorand University

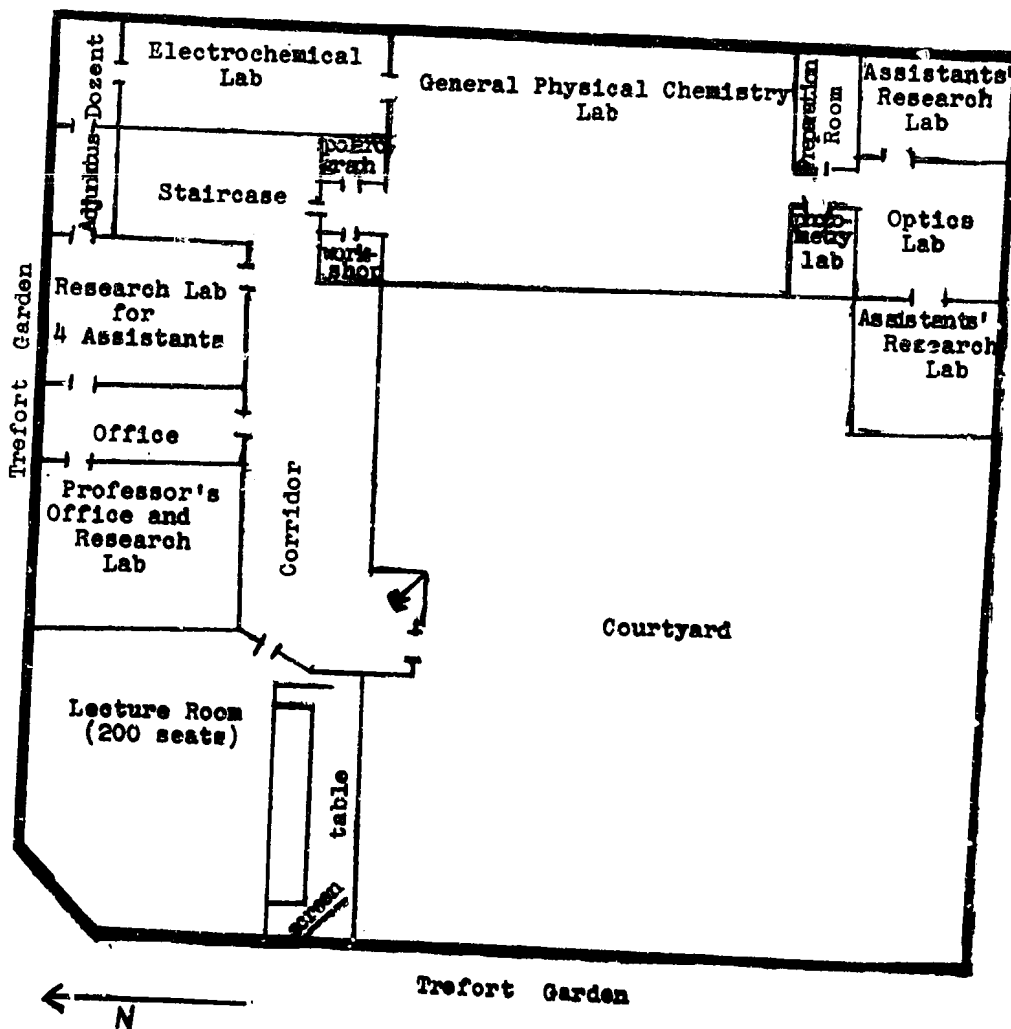
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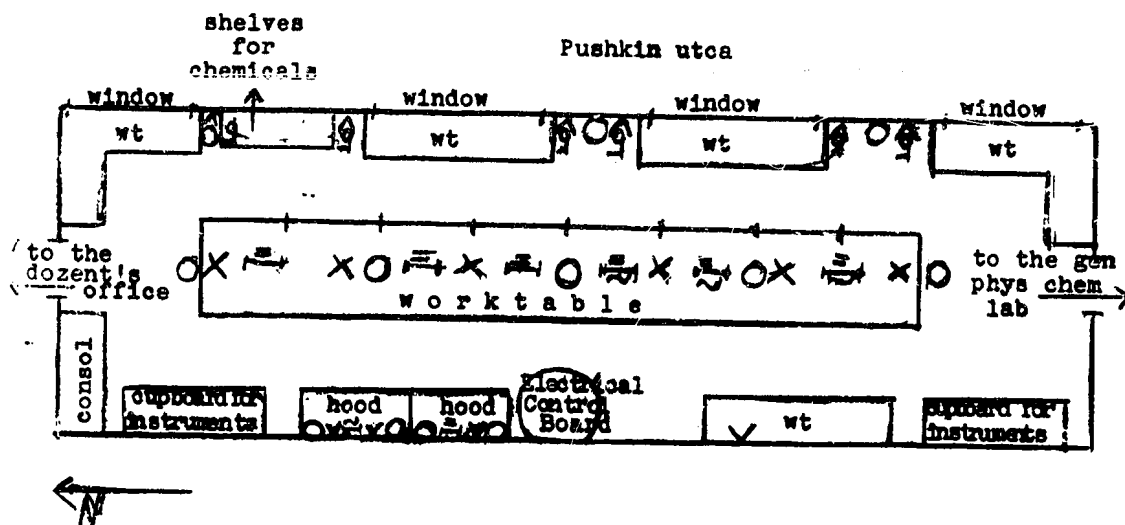
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ENCLOSURE (D)

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Electrotechnical Laboratory, Physical Chemistry Institute,  
Eotvös Loránd University

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